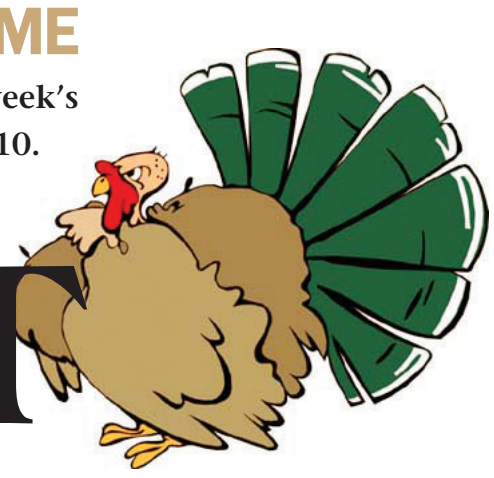
MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY — JOPLIN

THE CHART

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2004 | WWW.THECHARTONLINE.COM | Volume 65, Issue 11

BREAK TIME

The Chart **is taking a few week's off. Look for us again Dec. 10.**



BURGER FOR A BUCK

Bill Shepherd/The Chart

Candice Dickinson, senior finance major, fixes her burger at CAB's United Way Dollar Day Nov. 17. CAB raised $360 for the United Way.

Students plan for holidays

Trips home, across U.S. planned during break

By Monique Jamerson
Public Forum Editor

International students among in-season athletes still have a place to call home during intersession and Thanksgiving break.

Students may stay on campus during the intersession, but no meals will be offered, no visitors allowed and there is a $200 fee required upfront. Sometimes this fee can we waived with approval from Deb Gibson, director of housing.

She said this plan is a great idea because the international students are the one's who will benefit from it the most.

"International students will reap the benefits of being able to stay on campus because they have the least places to go," Gibson said.

She said students who stay on campus will not be allowed to have visitors because the shortage of student assistants.

"We have to make sure that everyone stays safe," she said. "And with the limited amount of staff this is will be difficult if the students have visitors.

Gibson said she wishes they had the luxury of clumping all of the students together in one building.

"We will also not be able to offer meals because at this point we never know how many students will be staying over the intersession," she said. "Until we steady out, [Sodexho Campus Services] will not be able to provide meals."

Diony Paillant, senior CIS major, said having the opportunity to stay on campus is a great idea but he strongly disagrees with the fee.

"I think it is ridiculous. Students should be allowed to stay on campus for free definitely if meals aren't offered," Paillant said.

Paillant was a staff assistant for the residence halls but now he is living with his host family who he will be spending Thanksgiving with.

He will return home to Haiti to spend Christmas with his biological family.

Yermek Zhakipzhanov, freshman graphic design major, will also be spending the holidays with his host family.

"I would like to go back home to Kazakhstan to be with my family, but it is way too expensive," Zhakipzhanov said.

Dwayne Mactavious, freshman graphic design major, said a few of the international students are going to the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas for Thanksgiving.

"It's about 12 of us going, and I think we are going to have a lot of fun," Mactavious said.

Three international students came up with the idea to have some of the international students get together for Thanksgiving.

> *"I would like to go back home to Kazakhstan to be with my family, but it is way too expensive."*
>
> **Yermek Zhakipzhanov**
> *Freshmen Graphic Design Major*

"I wouldn't mind staying on campus, but we have found some activities to do during the break," Mactavious said.

He said staying on campus works but in other ways there is a problem.

"Not being allowed to have visitors over the break seems a little lonely to me," Mactavious said. "But for now, I have nothing to worry about because I will be going back to the Islands for Christmas.

Gibson said the giving students the opportunity to stay on campus has worked out pretty good.

"I am impressed with the way my staff has reacted and the physical plant's staff," she said.

Gibson said this was truly the right thing to do.

Enrollment becomes available online

By Kathleen Cunningham
Staff Writer

Seniors with more than 90 credit hours will be able to register online starting in the spring for the summer and fall 2005 semesters.

"We are going to phase it in with seniors being allowed to register first," said Steve Earney, assistant vice president for information services. "It will be a part of Lion Link."

Earney said normal enrollment limitations will apply. Students can still appeal for overrides of a prerequisite if they do not have the prerequisite or to get into a closed class.

"This University values advising," Earney said. "You have to have the adviser's authorization to pre-enroll, which is why they don't want freshmen doing it."

Sandra Gleson, registrar, said the administration is still working out the final details. Students will need an adviser and a code to register online. Seniors will have priority because they have more experience with enrolling. Gleson said students can still register with their advisers on their assigned dates.

"I don't think students know what classes they should or should not take," Jason Allen, sophomore sociology major. "They need the advisers."

"For some kids, it's a good idea," said Stacy Lilly, sophomore secondary education major. "I live off campus. It's easier for me to do it at home than to drive up here."

"It sounds like a good idea," Heather Henderson, sophomore chemistry major. "[It will] make registering for classes a lot easier."

Bruce Miller, senior CIS major, said does not fully agree with online registration.

"I think at times they give the students too much control," Miller said.

FALL BREAK?

Debate rages concerning vacation days

By T.J. Gerlach
Editor-in-Chief

With the Thanksgiving break around the corner, students get their first break since Labor Day. But many students think there should have been a break before now.

"I feel as though we need more days off the first semester," said Jason Givens, senior CIS major.

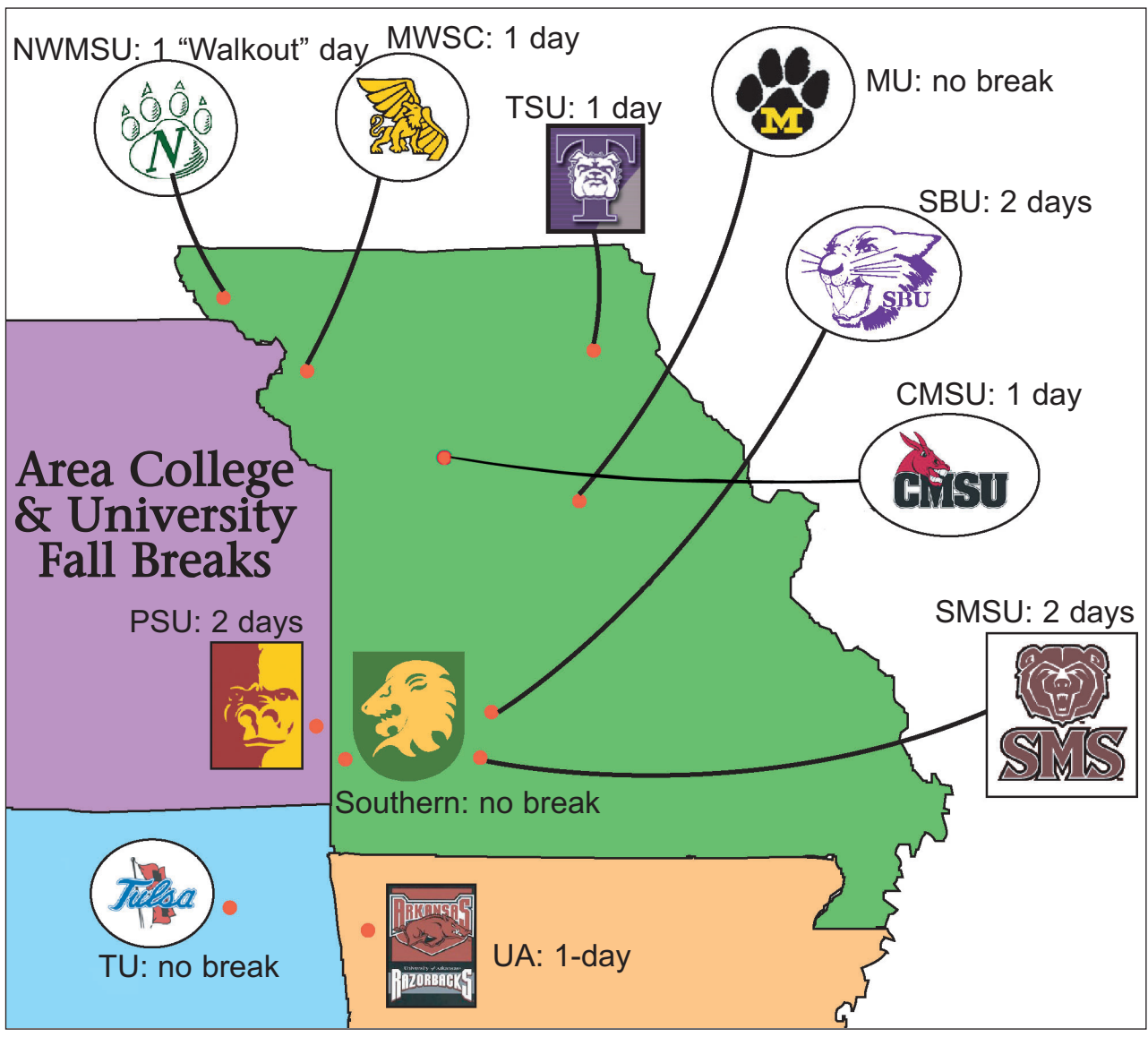
Givens said the fall semester lasts from August to Thanksgiving break with only a Labor Day break. He said from his understanding, the reason Missouri Southern does not have a fall break is because the administration wants students to get their money's worth.

"That's no way to treat a student," he said. "They say you get your money's worth. Please, give us a break."

Givens said he does not think a couple of days out of the semester would be a waste of students' money.

University President Julio León said he

TURN TO **BREAK**, PAGE 8



Graphic by Randall Georges/The Chart

DPS, JPD warn campus about leaving items in plain sight

By Nate Billings
Executive Editor

Recently, several thefts have occurred on campus. A few of them involved vehicle damage.

Ken Kennedy, manager of the department of public safety, said the amount of crime on campus is relatively low. He said the thefts are not the beginning of a trend.

"It is not a big problem like the bigger universities across the state," he said.

Thefts are not uncommon in Joplin either.

"As a city, we get numerous thefts from vehicles every month," said Corporal Jim Wallace, supervisor of the crime prevention bureau with the Joplin Police Department.

He said the numbers cycle from month to month.

Kennedy said the biggest problem with stolen items is people not taking the precautions necessary to prevent a theft.

"Please don't leave valuables lying in plain sight," he said.

Kennedy said the temptation for a person to steal something increases if that person sees something easily accessible in someone's vehicle.

Wallace agreed.

"Never leave keys in a car or your car running," Wallace said.

He said the cold weather causes some people to leave their vehicles unattended while they visit a store while they shop.

Wallace said these vehicles are easy targets for thieves.

JPD Detective Sergeant Brian Lewis said there

TURN TO **THEFTS**, PAGE 8

INDEX

News	2,3,8,9
Public Forum	4
International	5
Diversions	6,7
Sports	10

THE CHART
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WEEKEND WEATHER OUTLOOK

Saturday
Chance
Rain
High: 55
Low: 41

Sunday
Chance
Rain
High: 52
Low: 36

ONLINE

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Question of the week:
What would you like to see on campus?

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Congratulations to:

Emily Chambers and David Haut, senior and managing editor for *The Chart*, were engaged Nov. 13. The couple plan to have their wedding in June.

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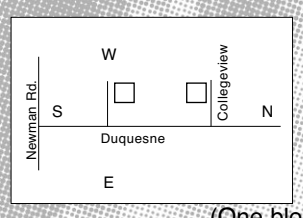

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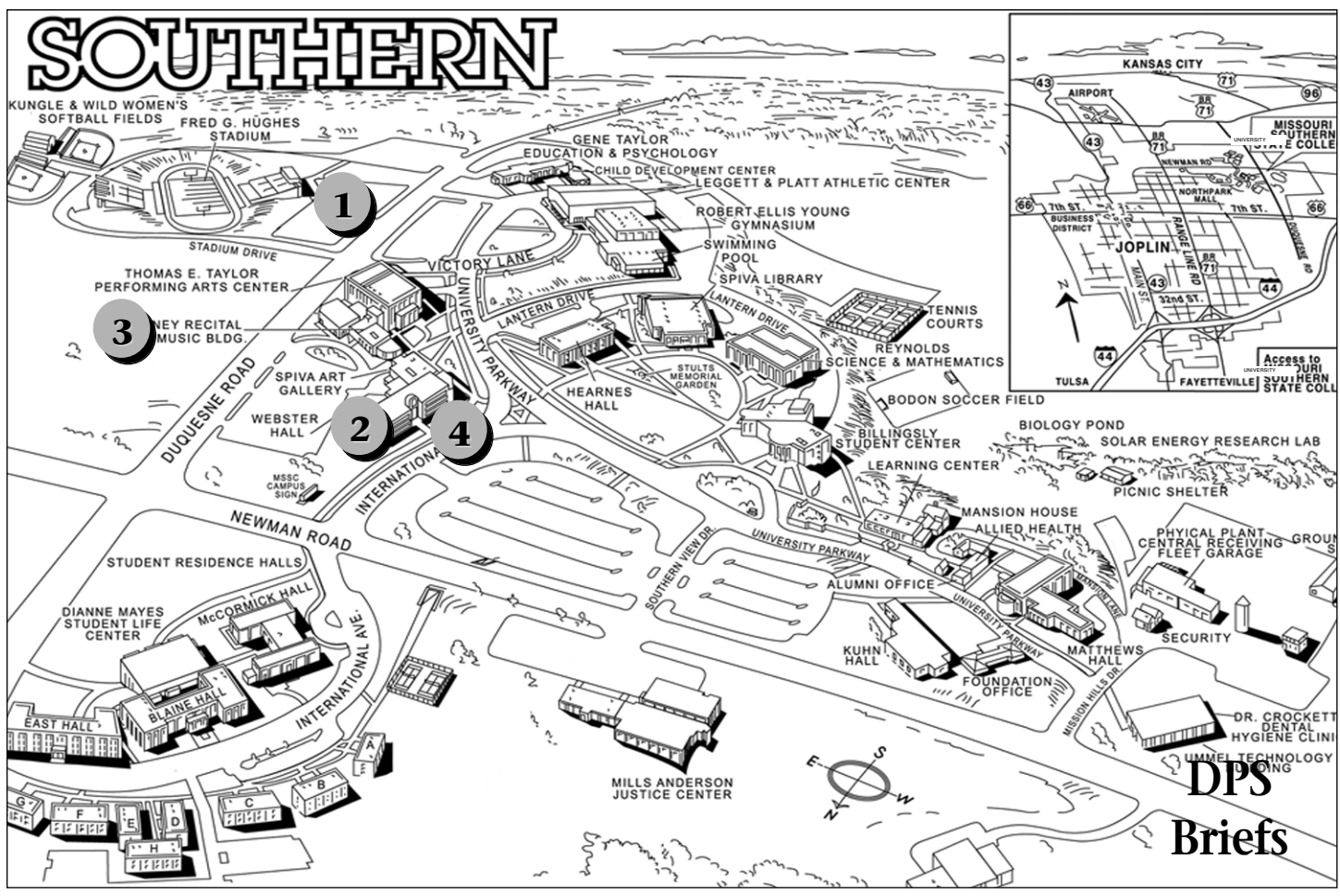

DPS Briefs

Horse riders graze cross country course

1 Property Destruction

11/10/2004

9:20 a.m.

The Department of Public Safety was contacted in reference to a damaged vehicle in lot 18. The owner of the vehicle found the left-rear tire flat during the day.

When the owner tried to have the tire fixed, the worker said the tire had been cut. The officer noted the cuts had been caused from either someone cutting the tire, or driving on a flat tire.

2 Information

11/10/2004

11:00 p.m.

JPD contacted DPS in reference to a stalking.

A woman stated her ex-husband had been stalking her. The JPD officer stated they would contact the ex-husband and serve a verbal *ex-parte*.

The DPS officer said the department would begin extra patrolling.

3 Information

11/13/2004

11:20 a.m.

DPS was called to the cross country course.

Two white females were riding horses across the field. A coach asked them to leave, but they said their uncle told them it was OK.

The coach asked them again, and they left. A DPS officer went to the course to make sure the riders did not return. Later, the coach called to thank the officer.

4 Property Destruction

11/13/2004

1:40 p.m.

A DPS officer was called to the west side of Webster Hall.

A caller said three flags on that side of campus were missing. The cables had been cut and were lying on the ground.

The officer went to the scene and found the cables cut.

Compiled from Public Safety reports

Campus Calendar

To place your event or announcement, contact *The Chart* at 625-9311 or chart@mssu.edu

Model United Nations essay contest offers up $1000 prize

This year's Model United Nations' topic concerns human rights. An essay contest for a prize of $1,000 is offered to participating members. Contest entries must be received by Feb. 7, 2005.

Students who enter must also be participating members of their local Model United Nations. They must also attend the Midwest Model United Nations conference.

In the past 12 years, two Missouri Southern students have won.

For more information, contact the Model U.N. sponsor, Dr. Paul Teverow, at 625-3114.

Omicron Delta Kappa inducts 32 new honor society members

Thirty students and two faculty members were inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society Nov. 14. The society recognizes outstanding campus and community leadership and service.Dr. Alfred Cade, assistant dean of education and assistant professor of education, and Dr. Virginia Laas, professor of history, were the faculty inductees.

Jane Austen, oral histories focus of senior Honors theses

A senior Honors Program thesis presentation will be made 2 p.m. Friday in Hearnes Hall Room 313.

Jessie Noble, senior English education major, will present her thesis, "Respect, Esteem and Confidence: Austen on the Authentic Marriage."

The thesis deals with the ideas concerning the status of marriage explored in several of Jane Austen's works.

At 3 p.m. on Nov. 30 in Webster Hall room, 112, Annette Cross, senior secondary education - history major, will present her thesis, "The Bane of Our Existence: Oral Histories of Women's Lives During World War II." The thesis explores the oral history and lives of women in Dade County, Mo. in the 1940's.

The theses are open for all.

Oxford program position open to faculty member applications

The Oxford University summer study program is accepting applications. One faculty member may go free of charge for accompanying a group of Southern students.

The faculty member will be responsible for his or her airfare.

All full-time faculty are eligible, but those who have been working with the Honors Program will be given priority.

The Oxford program runs from July 4 to July 22, 2005.

Interested faculty must submit letters of application to the Academic Affairs office by Jan. 12, 2005.

For more information, contact Dr. Chad Stebbins at 625-9736.

Three Southern violinists present two recitals for public viewing

Three Southern Suzuki Violin Academy students will present a recital at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Webster Hall auditorium and again at 3:00 p.m.

The students, Jon Gayman, Kexi Liu and Elizabeth Messinger will play the violin at the 1:30 p.m. recital

Tascille King, Alison Hasselquist and Joel Thomas will accompany on piano.

The recitals are open to the public, and admission is free of charge.

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THE CHART
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Adam Fast/ The Chart

University President Julio León visited with the Student Senate Nov. 17 along with Dr. Terri Agee, vice president of business affairs, and Dr. Richard McCallum, vice president of academic affairs.

Senate questions administrative members

By Nate Billings
Executive Editor

The Nov. 17 Student Senate meeting was officially 10 minutes long.

Senate president Eric Ducommun sped up the meeting to allow more time to meet with University President Julio León.

León, as well as Dr. Richard McCallum, vice president of academic affairs; Dr. Terri Agee, vice president for business affairs and Dr. Jack Spurlin, vice president of Life Long Learning, came to meet with and answer questions the senators had.

The senators had presented the questions a week before the meeting to allow the administrative members to look over and discuss them.

During the meeting, 14 questions were presented. They included topics ranging from building plans to sexual orientation discrimination.

The first question involved tuition fees and the possibility of an increase.

León said he will bring his suggestions to the Board of Governors on Nov. 29 and needs to wait for its approval before he could comment in full, but he did tell the Senate one thing about what he expects.

"I think you will like what you hear," he said.

Other questions were directed toward the master's degrees. McCallum said partnerships with Northwest Missouri State University, University of Missouri-Kansas City and Southwest Missouri State University are likely to come into effect during the 2005 fall semester.

The Senate also asked the administrators about the possible recreation center, health sciences building and an electric sign.

"We really appreciate the interest and initiative you (Senate) take," León said.

He noted the administration takes the recommendations of the students seriously.

León said the architects suggested a $15 million rec center, but at that price, the students would have to pay an extra $150 recreation fee per student per semester.

"That put a negative light on the project," León said.

He said the rec center would only be likely if the fees could be dropped to $100 or less.

León said the next priority of the Board will be a new health sciences building which the state will fund.

> *"We really appreciate the interest and initiative you (Senate) take."*
>
> **Dr. Julio León**
> *University President*

The building has been in the works for several years, but has recently been added to the top priorities of state educational resources funding.

The administrators also said the finishing of the football stands will be dependent on several design issues and what the Board determines is needed based on recommendations from a committee set up to discuss the situation.

The Mansion will also be remodeled, but the administrators said there was no definite date to the work.

"It is in our best interest to restore it and use it," León said.

The electronic sign was also discussed.

León said the administration will help in the project if the Campus Activities Board and Senate hold to their positions from last semester of helping to fund the project.

A new baseball stadium on campus was also considered, but León said the plans were not likely.

"I think the baseball program has gotten used to playing in the middle of a city," he said.

León said Joe Becker Stadium has become a prominent feature in Southern baseball.

"The coach and players are pretty attached to it," he said.

The possible Carthage campus was looked at as well. The plans to move classes into the old McCune-Brooks Hospital building would have to wait until the hospital moves to the new building and renovations can be made. León said the project would be at least three years away.

Agee brought to the senators' attention the computers in Student Life Center.

She said the computers will be updated with newer models. The computers are slated for replacement in the spring semester.

The second-floor lounge in the Billingsly Student Center will also be remodeled with new carpet and new furniture in the University's colors.

"We're pretty excited about it," Agee said.

The possibility of reaching out to international students was also brought up by the Senate.

León said the international mission of the University has reached the point that it is important to develop programs designed for the international students on campus.

Alex Vassilov, sophomore senator, brought up the appearance of the University's Web site.

"It has many flaws," he said. "Our's proves to be old and inaccessible."

León said he will consider the suggestions and appreciates the input of the senators because he did not know what students thought about the Web site.

Senators then moved on to ask about the possibility of a four-day week, which León said was not academically sound. Other issues were parking, exercise machines, tickets at the stands and core requirements.

The question of a 10,000-student goal by 2010 was also put on the floor.

The final question concerned the possibility of adding a policy against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The question addressed other institutions which added sexual orientation to their discrimination policies.

"We don't do things just because other universities do it," León said.

He said the discrimination policy follows the federal regulations and does not need to be updated.

The session ended at about 6:30 p.m.

"We had questions, they had answers," Ducommun said. "I'd like to thank them for taking their time out to speak with us."

Student wins youth award

By Nate Billings
Executive Editor

Photo taken from Missouri Community Betterment Web site

Rachel Oglesby, freshman speech communication and art major, said she appreciates receiving the Missouri 2004 youth leadership award from Gov. Bob Holden (right).

When the need for action was seen, one Missouri Southern student decided to make her mark in her hometown community.

Rachel Oglesby, freshman speech communication and art major, worked on two community projects during her senior year in Lamar high school.

"She was a very diligent girl," said Barbara Nichols, fifth grade teacher at Lamar.

Nichols worked with Oglesby to bring slippers to senior citizens during the winter season.

Nichols was Oglesby's fourth grade teacher and both felt like they could work with each other.

The plan was to work with the students in Nichols' class to find donations and wrap the slippers.

"I managed to get over $1,500 in donations," Oglesby said.

Nichols said due to absences and snow days, the classroom had trouble helping Oglesby.

"She pretty much did it all by herself," Nichol said.

When the snow days occurred, Oglesby and her family went door-to-door around the town square gathering donations.

The fifth-grade students then wrapped the slippers which Oglesby gathered through the donations or bought with donated money.

"It was very interesting watching fifth graders try to wrap slippers," Oglesby said.

Nichols said the students enjoyed the work.

"It was wonderful," she said.

The other community project which Oglesby set up was a fingerprint drive.

The fingerprint drive allowed community members to have their children come in and get fingerprinted in case a kidnapping should ever happen.

Oglesby said she saw a need to raise awareness in the community after she heard about a kidnapping in Florida.

The events took two to three weeks to prepare and develop respectively.

Nichols said the Lamar school will try to continue the work Oglesby started.

The community service did not go unnoticed.

Oglesby was nominated by the Lamar community to be their state candidate for the Missouri Community Betterment 2004 youth leadership award. The Lamar community betterment organization contacted Oglesby during the summer to notify her that she should come to their meeting.

"I knew when it was, but I didn't know if I had won or not," she said.

In October, the Missouri Community Betterment program made their selections for the 2004 winners.

Oglesby was among the winners.

"I was surprised," she said. "When I started the project, that wasn't my goal."

The grand prize winner was from Houston, Mo., but Oglesby still appreciates the award.

"I was honored," she said. "I got to shake hands with the Governor. Coming from Lamar, that's not something you do everyday."

Alumna takes lead

Former *Chart* editor to head MU department

By Kathleen Cunningham
Staff Writer

An alumna of Missouri Southern has been named the first executive director of the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

A Carthage native, Pam Johnson worked at *The Chart* from 1965 to 1966 under adviser Cleetis Headley.

After graduating from MU's School of Journalism in 1969, she went to work at the *Joplin Globe* from 1970 to1975.

Johnson later worked as assisting managing editor at the *Kansas City Star* where she shared the Pulitzer Prize with the *Kansas City Times* in 1982 for coverage of the collapse of the skywalks of the Hyatt Hotel.

In 2000, she was awarded the Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism. Johnson's mentor was late managing editor, Bob Chaplain who encouraged her to attend MU's journalism school.

She began working in *The Globe's* clipping morgue during college. She moved to Arizona in 1989 where she became executive editor at the *Arizona Republic*. She also worked at the *Inghamton Press* and *Phoenix Gazette*.

She became a member of the Leadership Faculty at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in 2001.

Pam Johnson
Director of the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute.

Dean Mills, dean of the journalism school at MU, said Johnson will begin her duties on Nov. 15.

She relocated from her home in St. Petersburg, Fla.

"I'm very pleased to be returning to Missouri to assume this important responsibility," she said.

MU received a $31 million donation from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation for the creation of the Donald W. Reynolds Reynolds Journalism Institute.

This was the largest private donation MU has ever received.

The institute will be completed in 2007.

I THOUGHT HALLOWEEN WAS OVER! WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH ALL THE ZOMBIE'S?
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO STUDENTS WITH NO FALL BREAK HERE AT MSSU.
MAN, PITT STATE IS LOOKING BETTER AND BETTER.
UM.... GO GORILLA'S?
Barry Linduff

Students deserve fall break

Chart Opinion

Southern students need a break. College students all over the nation take a break after their mid-terms, go home and visit family and friends.

Why shouldn't Southern? Southern students go to school for 81 days in the fall semester, that is more than most other colleges in the state.

It is not asking for much. Just a couple of days off, an extended weekend, something, anything to give students a little relief from the grueling semester they endure in the fall. After all, Labor Day is the only vacation students get to enjoy before Thanksgiving break. Unfortunately, it's usually during one of the first two weeks classes begin after a three-month vacation. That means students are in school a whopping 11 weeks straight.

Someone, or maybe everyone, will start to feel a definite pull after mid-terms. In fact, everyone has a hard time finishing classes before the well-deserved Thanksgiving break.

To compensate for this, many students often skip one or more classes simply for relief. Just a couple of days off after mid-terms would likely give students the breather they need.

Southern also has a goal of increasing the number of students living on campus.

A break would give those students a chance to visit home for more than just one day. Many students skip classes after mid-terms to go home anyway.

Southern might as well allow students have a break instead of the unnecessary possibility of hurting their grades.

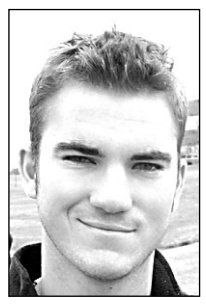
Whether or not the administration will admit to it, a break is needed.

Campus Voice By Monique Jamerson

Do you think Southern should have fall break?

"Yes. I think it would be a great idea because it would give students a chance to relax for a week like in the spring."

Mindy Forbes
Junior
English
Major



"Oh yeah. Most students need a break between starting school and Christmas."

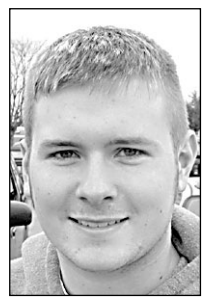
Tyler White
Junior
CIS
Major

"Yes. School is too much. We need to have a break; it's impossible to keep up."

Darin Shirley
Freshman
Psychology
Major

"Yes, because school gets too stressful throughout the semester."

William Harmon
Junior
CAD
Major



"Yes. I think it would be a good idea. It would at least begin to make up for not getting Martin Luther King day off and our shortened Christmas break."

Charlie Brim
Sophomore
Political Science &
Sociology Major

Editor's Column

Lack of decent radio station leaves Joplin culturally dead

Joplin's music just has a lame soul.

There are certain things I have taken for granted over the years that are starting to bug me. One of them is the lack of a decent radio station in the area.

Nate Billings
Executive Editor

Yes, some may disagree, but they are entitled to their opinion and their cowboy hat/tennis shoe combo.

To start, today's country music is so horrid, it is not worth explaining. Leave it there.

If it isn't country, then it's "classic rock," which we seem to only understand as covers from the late 80's and early 90's. Remember, radio is free, as long as it's "Freebird" or "Free Falling." I don't remember when they exactly became classics, but someone sure must think the last 10 years was extremely long.

This then brings to mind how many times a song is played here in town. Frankly, three different versions of *We Are the Champions* is more than enough, especially when not one of them is from Queen.

Today's pop music is about like its country counterpart. Until one listens in full, one will never know how masculine Michael Jackson sounds in comparison to boy bands.

The oldies stations are well appreciated. At least they stick to a genre one can seriously identify with. Of course, you don't have to be 40 or older to understand the lyrics. These songs are the origins of inspiration for some of today's music.

The origins of our music are the most important aspect to consider. But still, the songs do get old.

Classic music can't be forgotten either. It has inspired millions everywhere — including Metallica and Rage Against the Machine.

No one can give up the radio. Music fills the soul and allows for relaxation in the most stressful situations. Joplin's music scene, probably causes more stress than it relieves.

Garage bands and local groups give us some relief. At least they try to boost the scene. However, it just might not be enough.

Not everyone can afford XM radio, and lugging a computer around in the passenger seat isn't too practical (unless it's computer dating, forgive the pun).

The alternative is to burn CDs. That's a decent start. Streaming and ripping are great for sounds that can't be found around here. People can buy MP3s just as easily as they can share them. FYI: there are free MP3 sites out there who know poor college kids want music without a charge. All one has to do is search.

So, what do I think this area needs as far as music goes?

I may have odd tastes to some, but then again, I was fed up with today's music a long time ago. My favorite Canadian bands wouldn't cut the mustard, so here is a list of what we need in a station, or at least in a true mix station.

- One: a pure jazz station. Yes, the term "jazz recording" is an oxymoron, but the genre is one of the largest to choose from. The closest station, sadly enough, is in Aurora.
- Two: a station focusing on international rock and punk sensations.
- Three: Who can forget an alternative rock station? There is a heck of a lot of good stuff that comes from this genre.

One must remember many top bands actually started in this category. It's constantly changing and has only one true glue — there's no other place to put it. The underground is growing; it's about time Joplin kept up the lawn.

Nate Billings is the Executive Editor for The Chart. *His opinions are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of* The Chart *staff.*

Letters

Pornography, better than having unprotected sex

Concerning her pornography column [Nov. 12 issue], I agree with Melissa Dunson that pornography needs to be discussed, but I disagree with her selective portrayal of what pornography is and what it does to people. I think it is an oversimplification to say it presents a "degrading and dehumanizing portrayal of women." There is pornography featuring men available for women to enjoy, such as *Playgirl* magazine. Additionally pornography does not always portray women as submissive, and it does not always focus on women with "perfect" bodies.

As far as how pornography affects men, it is easy to generalize and say it may "encourage" violence, but there is a lot of pornography that is not violent. Pornography is wide-ranging in what it portrays, depending on the audience of focus. If you ask most men, they will probably say they view pornography merely to release sexual tension I think that is far better than having lots of unprotected sex.

Finally, women who feel "convinced" by pictures of skinny models to become sex objects are simply being weak-minded. After all no one is pointing a gun at them and demanding they emulate the models. They have the power to choose whether or not to be affected by them.

Khendra Murdock
Sophomore English Major

Pornographers, as citizens, have constitutional rights

I would like to respond to the Editor's Column, written by Melissa Dunson, for the Friday, Nov. 12, 2004 issue.

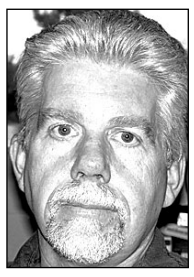
In her column that denounces pornography, Dunson states, "... the U.S.

TURN TO **LETTERS** PAGE 8

In Perspective

Poetry deserves different perspective

High on a ridge in New Hampshire's White Mountains, I'm sitting in a warm post-and-beam barn that once belonged to the poet, Robert Frost. The barn stands only a few yards from a farmhouse where Frost lived and wrote; together, the house and barn make up a center for poetry known as the Frost Place. It's still early this August evening but already in the mountains' shadowfolds dusk is descending, the distinctive green, blue and white of mountain, sky and cloud over Mounts Lincoln and Lafayette already giving way to heather and indigo. More and more people cluster in the barn's glowing honeycomb, the buzz of their conversation growing louder and more animated; soon it is almost impossible to find a seat among the 50 or 60 folding chairs scrunched into the barn. Then, a familiar figure with a geyserfroth of beard quietly steps onto the barn's platform stage, welcomes the audience and introduces the first poet who will be reading that evening. Within seconds after the poet begins to speak, those gathered in the barn appear caught up in an attentive, utter silence.



Dr. William Kumbier
Professor of English and Philosophy

Less than two months later, I find myself on a Thursday morning in Missouri Southern's Webster Hall auditorium, along with a couple hundred students, faculty and others from the Joplin community. Though the audience is larger and more diverse than that of the Frost Place, I sense the same hum of expectation. We are gathered to hear a performance/reading by the Russian poet, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, whose poetry I have known since I was in high school. I look down at a photocopied sheaf of Yevtushenko's poems and remember how struck I was then — and still am — by the boldness of his lines, the freedom with which they are deployed across the page, like terraces or steps leading to ever wider, broader con

TURN TO **POEMS**, PAGE 8

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY — JOPLIN

THE CHART

3950 E. Newman Road, Joplin, Mo. 64801-1595

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The Chart, the newspaper of Missouri Southern State University — Joplin, is published weekly, except during holidays and examination periods, from August through May by students in communications as a laboratory experience. Views expressed do not represent the opinions of the administration, faculty or the student body.

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor must be signed originals and include the writer's address and phone number for verification. Letters should not exceed 300 words. *The Chart* reserves the right to edit or refuse letters on the basis of length, clarity, accuracy and liability.

Letters shall be edited to meet *Chart* and AP style guidelines and all letters will be given a headline appropriate to the subject.

Letters will be chosen for publication by *The Chart* editors according to space considerations.

Bill Shepherd/The Chart

Passport and photo clerk Bob Oldt with the Joplin Post Office helps Robert Smith, sophomore speech communication major, apply for his United States passport as part of the Study Abroad Fair in the BSC on Nov. 17.

Southern holds Study Abroad Fair

Students get chance to view overseas opportunities

By Noelle Ott
Staff writer

Many people know about the Greek god Atlas with the world on his shoulders, but on Nov. 17 Missouri Southern students had the world at their fingertips.

From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., students had the opportunity to go to the 2004 Study Abroad Fair.

The event, which was sponsored by the Institute of International Studies, was held in the second floor lounge of the Billingsly Student Center where the faculty in charge of the study abroad opportunities gathered.

Through different fields of study, students had the chance to check out opportunities to go to France, Mexico, Italy, the Czech Republic or China, just to name a few.

Tracy Roach, senior criminal justice major, has not studied abroad before. She was just one of the many students glancing at a few of the displays.

"Australia is where my area of study is going, and it's my last chance to go," Roach said. "I think that any student that has the chance to go should, young or old."

When students study abroad they typically earn college credit as well. Although some prerequisites might be required many people said they tend to think it is worth it just to be able to encounter another culture they may or may not have the opportunity to here.

"It's an amazing experience," said Iulia Nastasa, freshman international business major, "You get to see something completely different than what you're used to."

"It's an amazing experience. You get to see something completely different than what you're used to."

Iulia Nastasa
Freshman International Business Major

Nastasa is studying abroad at Southern. She is from Romania and will be here for four years.

Students don't always have to worry about being able to speak the language of the country they wish to attend. Some of the international opportunities, such as one to Costa Rica, teach a course in English.

Studying abroad was made easier for students this time around. A representative from the Joplin Post Office was also on hand to register passport applications for the students.

If students are interested in studying abroad, they may contact Dr. Chad Stebbins, director of the Institute of International Studies, at 625-9736.

Celebrating Halloween Disneyland, Paris style

Tradition is part of everyone's lives.

In the States, we have our traditions, like celebrating Halloween.

Jessica MacIntosh
Foreign Correspondent

In France, they have started to take the American tradition of the carved pumpkin and the costume.

I, unfortunately, broke my tradition of dressing up for Halloween and traded it in for a day at the greatest place in the world.

After returning from three days of fun in jolly London and finding out the St. Louis Cardinals lost the World Series (it was a sad day in baseball), a bunch of friends and I went to a place where all your dreams come true and where a certain mouse reigns supreme.

We went to celebrate our Halloween early at Disneyland Paris.

The park was decked out for the holiday with a giant pumpkin right in front of Sleeping Beauty's castle. The Halloween parade was amazing. Instead of it being the princesses' parade, it was all of the Disney villains. There were villains from Gaston from *Beauty and the Beast* to Ursula from *The Little Mermaid*.

I had the best time dancing to the Halloween music with my friend from the University of Rhode Island.

Main Street U.S.A. had a certain eerie feel. Although the Disney music played throughout the park, the sound of witches and ghosts laughing could be heard.

It was hard to tell if a person dressed as a monster was going to just jump out and frighten someone.

Frontierland was transformed into Halloweentown and around every corner orange and black could be seen.

We spent the day riding the rides and soaking in the Disney fun.

After the long day at Disneyland Paris, we had a long meal at Planet Hollywood. I mean it was a really long meal.

Our server kept disappearing, and it took forever to receive our food. He would not come ask us if we needed anything or how we were doing. It was the worst service we had ever had; that is why I did not buy a shirt.

We were scared we would have to spend the night in Paris because the server was taking his time. But, we ended up taking the last train out of Paris back to Orléans.

In the end everything worked out, and we all had a great experience at Disneyland Paris.

Oh by the way, I was looking really snazzy in the Mickey Mouse ears I bought. I felt like a child again.

Jessica MacIntosh is a foreign correspondent for The Chart. *Her opinions are her own and do not necessarily reflect those of* The Chart *staff.*

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Friday

- "The Ballet Russe," 2 p.m., Bud Walton Theatre
- Moscow Ballet, "The Great Russian Nutcracker," 7 p.m., Memorial Hall, admission: 20-$35
- Viva la Música: An Evening of Latin Music and Dance, 7 p.m., Connor Ball Room, 3rd floor of Billingsly, $4 at ticket office or at door, include entrance, picture, food, music

Saturday

- French Conversation Night with French exchange students, 7 p.m., Dioko Coffee Co.

Monday

- Spanish Convo Group, 7 p.m., University Java Coffee Shop

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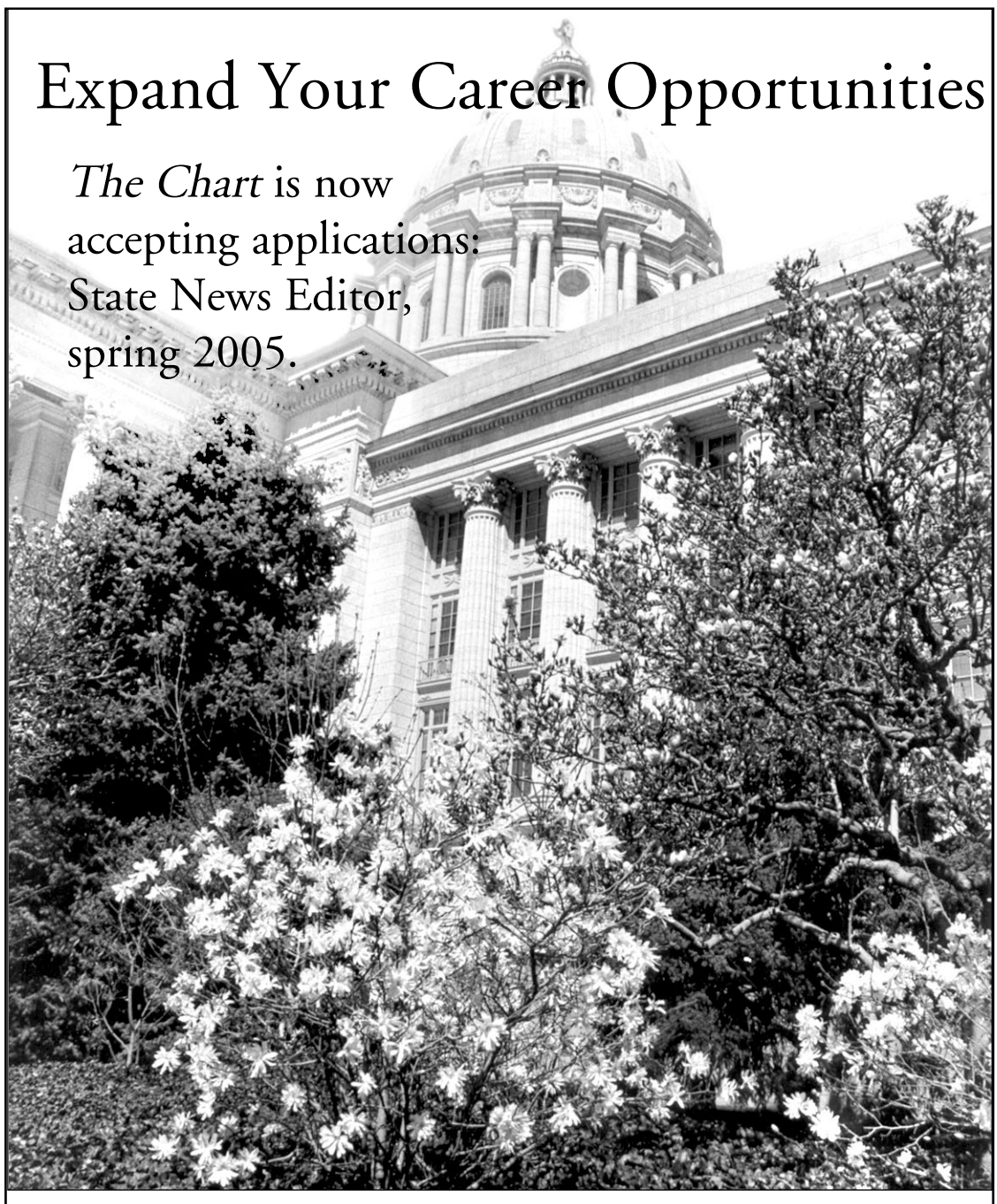
Expand Your Career Opportunities

The Chart is now accepting applications: State News Editor, spring 2005.



Be at the forefront of the State Capitol's events!

The State News Editor spends at least two days a week in Jefferson City covering the General Assembly sessions and interviewing government officials for The Chart's State News page. This editor also interacts with other media professionals from Missouri.

Who should apply? Any junior or senior interested in covering government affairs of interest to the campus.

Do I receive credit? Yes! The State News Editor receives 8 hours of internship credit.

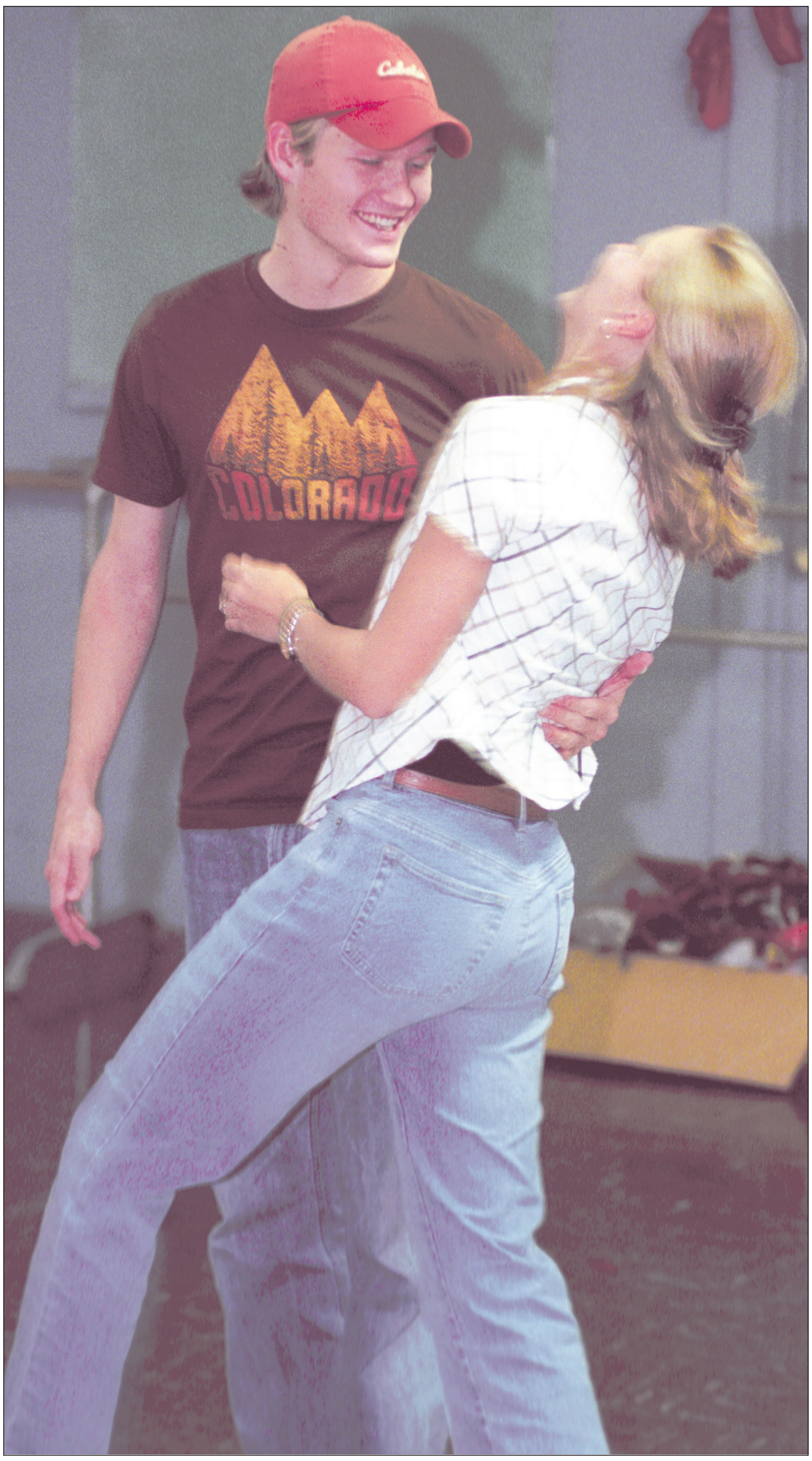
What about expenses? The University provides a **$1,500** stipend to help defray travel and motel expenses.

How do I apply? Submit a cover letter, resumé and samples of your writing to Webster Hall, Room 333.

Please apply before Dec. 1

Questions?
J.R. Ledford, Publications Manager, *The Chart,* 625.9823; ledford-j@mssu.edu

Diversions



Local class provides couples with steps

By Melissa Dunson
Diversions Editor

"Promenade," "progressive forward," "box turn" and the "quick rock" are all part of a language that is strictly ballroom.

Nestled in a small upstairs apartment just off of Main Street, brown floor tiles and mirrored walls are transformed into a ballroom. Five local couples are currently discovering the hidden magic of ballroom dancing at The School of Ballet dance studio. Jared Lett, senior psychology major, and his fiancée Lacey McMunn, senior elementary education major, are taking the class in preparation for dancing at their wedding.

"We didn't want to do the junior high shuffle for our first dance," McMunn said.

Lett said he was a little hesitant to take the class in the beginning, but once the first class started, he had fun.

"I'm glad we're learning," Lett said. "It's much better than sitting in the dorms watching TV all day."

Phyllis Cavener, the class's dance instructor, said dance can benefit anyone, but men often have a more difficult time committing to this kind of a class.

"Guys have the hardest time getting here," Cavener said. "Usually it's the women who want to do this, and they drag their husbands and boyfriends to a class like this."

Cavener said most of the time it's the relational aspect of dancing that women want to share with their partners.

They want to be able to do this with their partners," she said. "It's something else socially to do together."

Cavener thinks despite some men's aversion, dancing can be an important relational tool. "It's fun to see the relationships at work while they're dancing," she said. "You can see the ones with good communication skills and bad communication skills."

Debbie Dixon, Carl Junction, is taking the class with her husband David who was hesitant to attend the class, but did so for his wife.

"He said, 'I don't particularly care to learn to dance, but I would love to dance with you,'" Dixon said. "I've heard that in dancing it's the man's job to make the woman shine and if he succeeds, he's accomplished his goal."

> *"I'm glad we're learning. It's much better than sitting in the dorms watching TV all day."*
>
> **Jared Lett**
> *Senior Psychology Major*

The class provides a relaxed, non-threatening atmosphere to learn what many feel is an awkward pastime. Cavener's teaching style allows for plenty of smiles and giggles, but makes sure her students learn and, most importantly, keep their feet moving.

Students attribute the easy atmosphere to Cavener's teaching style that not only expects but welcomes mistakes with one-on-one attention.

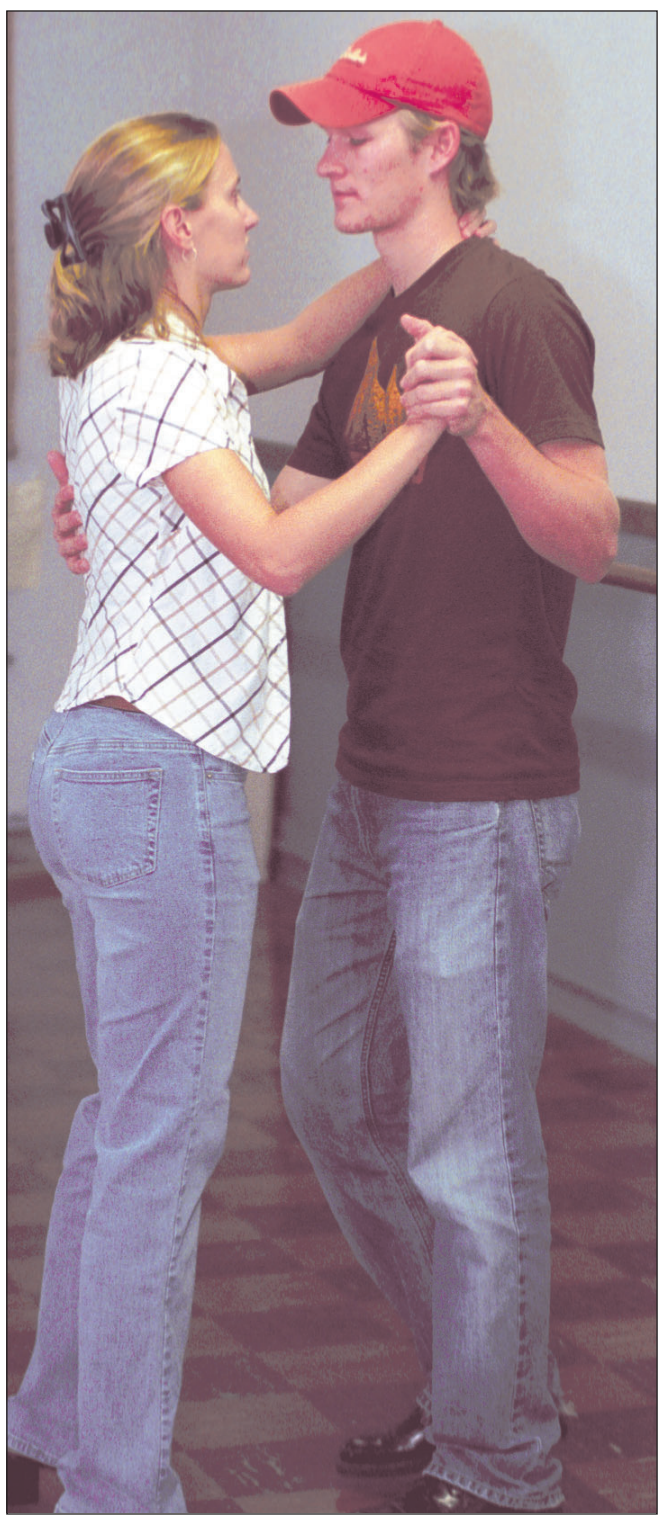
None of the current students are dance professionals and the room frequently echoes with laughter and protests of smashed feet as couples learn to give and take.

"I laugh through the whole thing," Dixon said.

Cavener hopes through these classes to share her love for dancing that began when she was three-and-a-half years old.

"Dance is in me," Cavener said. "If I stopped I would probably die."

The class teaches the basics of beginning ballroom dancing in one hour, once a week increments for eight weeks for a cost of $60. The current class is closed, but Cavener plans to teach the class again in January. For more information, call 417-782-4089.



Bill Shepherd/The Chart

Above, Jared Lett, senior psychology major, and his fiancee, Lacey McMunn, senior elementary education major, dance together during a class at The School of Ballet. The class teaches the basics of beginning ballroom dancing.

Bill Shepherd/The Chart

Left, Lett and McMunn practice their ballroom dancing steps including "the promenade," "box turn," "progressive forward" and "quick rock." The class meets for one hour, once a week, for eight weeks. The cost of the class is $60. Above, Phyllis Cavener, dance instructor, has been dancing since she was three-and-a-half years old. She also teaches jazz, tap and ballet.

Welcome to the Zoo
By Todd Petillo
SAM HELP! A FLAMINGO, A RABBIT, A BOA, AND A Parrot ARE MISSING!
I'LL HELP LOOK.
NOT IN HERE.
NOT IN HERE EITHER.
WOMEN ROOM
DAMN!

Funny Thing About Life...

David Haut

Managing Editor

Well, I'm engaged. That's right. For all of you out there who didn't think I would ever find someone, you're wrong. And some of you owe me five bucks.

Seriously, I really am engaged to a girl named Emily who is gorgeous, smart and always remembers to flush.

So, since I've already taken this step, you can totally assume I'm well informed of the subject matter and know exactly what I'm doing.

Getting engaged is serious business, and by serious business, I mean serious for the business men who have booming businesses because of your business. (The average cost of an engagement ring is now $474,349. Source: some bridal magazine.)

Therefore, I've decided to assist all you men out there who have problems buying an engagement ring.

Here's what I did:

I started out by buying a ring that was approximately the size of a small island, only it was way more expensive.

If you're wondering about diamonds, they're classified by weight, size, cut, color and clarity. Aside from the size, the rest of these classifications are just ways for jewelers to take more of your money. For someone to actually distinguish the difference between two diamonds, they would have to look really close. So close, in fact, they would probably poke their eye out, which would make the price of the diamond go up approximately $6543.

Now that you have your ring, and hopefully two eyes, you must start on the proposal.

If you're going for the element of surprise, nothing says I love you, will you marry me more than surprise. For this, I highly recommend lying.* (Hey ladies, we're doing it for love.)

Now that you're engaged, your fiancée will probably enlist in the help of several bridal magazines, all with engagement rings far more glamorous and expensive then the one you gave her. This is why it has become tradition for guys to buy their fiancee's another ring, known as the wedding band. And, for all of our trouble, us guys get one, too.

As for planning a wedding, that's another column.

Editors note: November is still give your University humor columnist a dollar month, and one newly engaged humor columnist may need it, just so you know.

*Just kidding, I love you, Emily.

David Haut, Managing Editor, writes a weekly humor column for The Chart. *His opinions are his own and don't necessarily reflect those of* The Chart *staff.*

Photo taken from http://tko.metal-idol.net/

'Killer' new band surprises audiences with 'killer' sounds

Review Corner

David Haut

Managing Editor

With a top-hit song, an eclectic rock sound and fresh, clever lyrics, The Killers may begin to begin their assault on the music industry.

Yes, it's the band with the infectious pop hit, "Somebody Told Me." Yes, it's the band that look like virtually every other Indy, pop, longhaired alternative boy rock band and yes; they have just released their debut album, *Hot Fuss*. But I assure you, they're so much more.

This Vegas-based eclectic rock band began after lead vocalist/guitarist Brandon Flowers left (or was dumped) by his former band. After being influenced by British pop band Oasis, Flowers responded to an ad looking for band members with the same musical influence.

Flowers' response led him to Dave Keuning and the two clicked. Soon after band mates Ronnie Vannucci and Mark Stoermer got on board what is now known as The Killers.

Almost all of the tracks for this album were written and practiced in a 120-degree garage, thus appropriately titling their debut album, *Hot Fuss*.

I first heard about this band when my fiancee bought the album after hearing them perform "Somebody Told Me", live on David Letterman.

I was instantly hooked on their '80's pop style mixed with today's eclectic rock that has become so popular. The first four tracks drew me in with their similar, yet unique sound. The record tends to slow down after that point. The songs tend to get mellow and the lyrics become more and more intense.

Photo taken from http://tko.metal-idol.net/

The album fits 11 tracks, all similar, yet different. The result is one great album.

Aside from the wildly popular and often overplayed "Somebody Told Me" and "Mr. Brightside", the album has several great tracks like "All These Things I've Done," "On Top," and one of my favorites, "Change Your Mind."

One complaint I have about the album is its consistency. It tends to lose its flow in a few places before picking it back up again. Some of the songs are a little on the mature side as well, although one may not see this without a deeper examination of the lyrics.

I'll be on the lookout for their sophomore album. In the meantime, The Killers freshman album, *Hot Fuss*, is definitely worth a listen.

Latin American dance promises food, dance, music

By Hallie Hocker

Staff Writer

Southern students will have the opportunity to dance to the rhythm of a Latin beat at Viva La Música: an evening of Latin music and dance. The dance will be from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, in Conner's Ballroom on the third floor of the Billingsly Student Center.

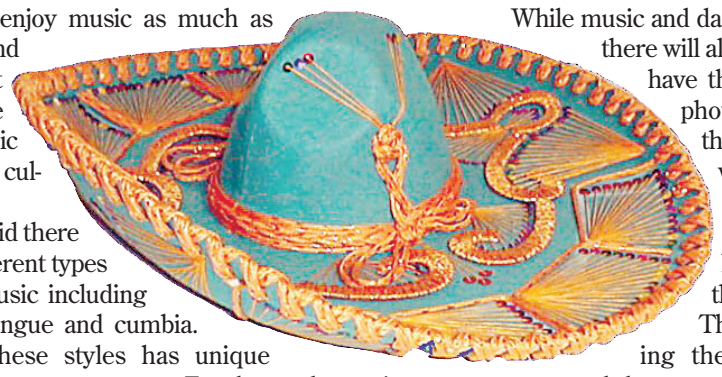
"You don't have to take Spanish or know Spanish to come to the dance," Leslie Parker, instructor of Spanish said. "Anyone on campus can come dance, meet people, and learn about a different culture."

Parker said the dance will be an informal and relaxed event. Dress is casual, although she advised to wear a shoe with a heel than flat shoes because it is easier to spin and move quickly on the balls of your feet.

"The different music will be the highlight," said Satia Gerbitz, freshman radiology major. "Hopefully a lot of people will show up and dance and have fun learning about a different culture."

The music of the night will all be Latin but that doesn't mean participants won't hear English lyrics sung by Latin artists.

"Latin American culture isn't dissimilar from our own North American culture," Carrie said. "We enjoy music as much as they do and celebrate it all the same. Music transcends culture."



Parker said there will be different types of Latin music including salsa, meringue and cumbia. Each of these styles has unique dance moves to accompany. For those who are interested in learning these styles of dance, there will be a lesson from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the dance. She also said that the dances can be performed as an individual or with a partner.

"We're trying to expose people to Spanish culture that they're not used to," said Carrie Gerbitz, senior Spanish and physics major. "We want people to have fun while learning about Hispanic culture and music."

While music and dancing will be the main event, there will also be food. Students will also have the opportunity to have their photo taken and can carry it with them when they leave. There will be a postcard-like backdrop painted by an artist for the photos. Students will also have costumes available for the photo.

The Spanish Club is sponsoring the event. Proceeds will go toward the presentation of a Latin art night in the March as well as a contribution to the Latin community, and an end of the year event.

Tickets are $4 each and can be purchased at the ticket office or at the door.

Giveaway offers $800 to student basketball attendees

By David Haut

Managing Editor

With only three weeks left of classes, the Campus Activities Board met for their weekly meeting on Nov. 17.

"It's the end of the semester and we're all grateful for that," said Julie Blackford, director of student activities.

Eight students were in attendance. Hours before the meeting, CAB sponsored the "United Way dollar day", a discount lunch promotion with all proceeds going to the United Way. The event raised $360 dollars.

CAB members discussed the remaining events for the semester including a wrap party on Dec. 7 and a possible casino night in conjunction with the release of the upcoming sequel *Oceans Twelve*. Next semester, CAB has booked comedian Chris Canon. Canon will perform at 7 p.m. on Jan. 20 in Webster Hall auditorium. The Board plans to schedule a comedian or a hypnotist on the third Thursday of every month. CAB is looking to schedule comedian Chris Strait for a later date, but one has yet to be decided. Discussions for a big man on campus pageant contest are still in the works. At this point, CAB members do not want the event to compete with the talent show competition they put on every spring. CAB members are still discussing ideas for the pageant. Another concern is attendance.

"I'm not worried about getting people to do it," said Grahm Dickinson, senior finance major. "I'm worried about getting a crowd there."

CAB
Campus Activities Board

Suggestions for a venue to host the contest are still in the air as well. The CAB and Zimmer Radio Group $100 giveaway is now up to $800 at the next Lions home basketball game 7 p.m. Friday. If the prize is not given away, the pot will be up to $900 for Saturday night's game.

Anyone with suggestions or interest in CAB are invited to attend their weekly meetings at 2 p.m. Wednesdays.

CAB will not have a meeting next Wednesday but will resume at 2 p.m. on Dec. 1 in the student activities office on the second floor of the Billingsly Student Center.

Area Events

National Treasure

19 *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*, *National Treasure* and *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie* open at the Northstar 14 Theaters.

Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker @ 7:30 p.m. @ Joplin Memorial Hall.

Political Science Movie: *Dr. Strangelove* @ Webster Hall auditorium.

Green and Gold Day @ The Bookstore.

Jim Suhler and Monkey Beat concert @ The Kitchen Pass.

Everwill concert @ 9 p.m. @ Dioko Coffee Co.

John Fitzgibbon: "A Celebration of Life" art exhibit opening reception @ 6 p.m. @ artCentral in Carthage.

20 Glory Days "Live Music Cafe" @ 8 p.m @ Glory Days Music.

The Christmas House play @ 7:30 p.m. @ The Stained Glass Theatre.

21 Zinfully Delicious Sunday @ noon-4 p.m. @ Cabin Creek Vineyard and Winery.

Daryl Foster Senior Vocal Recital @ 7:30 p.m. @ Webster Hall auditorium.

22 Movie Night @ 7:30 p.m. @ Dioko Coffee Co.

Karaoke @ 7-11 p.m. @ J-Town.

23 CAB meeting @ 2 p.m. @ 2nd floor BSC.

Karaoke @ 7-11 p.m. @ J-Town Billiards.

Open mic night @ 8-11 p.m. @ Dioko Coffee Co.

Insane Clown Posse and Mac 10 concert @ The Rockwell in Springfield.

24 NO CLASSES

Campus Crusade for Christ @ 7:30 p.m. @ the Student Life Center.

TNT @ 7 p.m @ The Baptist Student Union.

25 Jazz concert @ 7 p.m. @ Dioko Coffee Co.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Weird News:

eBay sells Virgin Mary sandwich

FLORIDA — The internet auction house eBay Inc. reopened bidding for half of a 10-year-old grilled cheese sandwich that its owner says bears the image of the Virgin Mary. The sandwich drew a top bid of $22,000 before being pulled off of the sight because eBay officials thought it was a joke. The current bid is $5,100 and has never sprouted a spore of mold.

http://palmbeachpost.clickability.com

Peppered cocaine hides in squid

PERU — Peruvian anti-drug agents seized more than 1,500 pounds of cocaine destined for Mexico. The drugs were rolled in pepper and hidden inside a 25 ton shipment of squid fillets to mask the drug's smell.

http://news.yahoo.com/news

BREAK:

From Page 1

does not want a fall break at Southern. He said he has not heard a good academic reason for a break.

"We feel the calendar is OK as it is," León said. "We feel the time and teaching in the classroom is valuable. That's how we approach it."

Givens said Missouri Southern has made progress by dismissing classes on snow days. He said Southern needs a fall break because it is a stress reliever for students.

"We need to start satisfying the students," Givens said. "They like to compare themselves to other schools, but it comes to the students' standpoint, they don't want to compare themselves to other schools."

He said prospective students do not look at a college because of its academic calendar.

He said he knows Pittsburg State University has a fall break, as well as most other colleges in Missouri.

Givens said it is not just his voice in this matter.

During the academic vice president search, students had the opportunity to meet with each candidate, and during every meeting, students asked the candidates' opinions on a fall break.

Ryan Hill, senior accounting major, also said he believes Southern needs a fall break.

"The middle of the semester gets long," Hill said. "It would be nice to have a break right after midterms."

He said he guesses the reason Southern does not have a break is to have enough class days to have a longer Thanksgiving break.

Kim Bogart, freshman early childhood education major, said a fall break would be nice, but she does not think it is needed.

"With a break, we would get a time away from school, but that break gets our minds off school and we could forget everything we learned," Bogart said.

Givens said he would like to see the break around the middle of October.

"I hope in the future, as our university status continues, we can get a fall break," Givens said. "I think we just definitely need it."

León said there is no real mechanism in place to change the calendar.

A proposal would have to be brought to the Board of Governors by the Faculty Senate or an academic council. Also, the Student Senate can bring the matter to the Governors' attention.

Southern has 81 class days in the fall semester, including finals' week.

In Missouri, Central Missouri State University is closest to Southern in class days with 78, but it has a one-day fall break as well.

Truman State University has the fewest days of colleges of similar size to Southern. TSU has 74 days in the semester with one day for fall break and a reading day before finals.

Other schools in the area:

- Missouri Western State College: 75 class days with one-day fall break.
- Northwest Missouri State University: 75 class days with one-day "Walkout day" in October.
- PSU: 79 class days with two-day fall break.
- Southwest Baptist University: 77 class days with two-day fall break.
- Southwest Missouri State University: 77 class days with two-day fall break.
- University of Arkansas: 73 class days with one-day fall break.
- University of Missouri: 78 class days with no fall break, full week off for Thanksgiving and one reading day before finals.
- University of Tulsa: 76 days with no fall break and full week off for Thanksgiving.

Attempts to contact Dr. Richard McCallum, vice president for academic affairs, were unsuccessful.

Nate Billings, executive editor, contributed to this story.

THEFT:

From Page 1

are several cases of vehicle damage associated with thefts.

"They'll bust a window," he said. "I've had kids who've had their Bibles stolen."

Lewis said the Bibles were in cases, which looked similar to CD holders.

There are other steps students can take to prevent thefts such as parking in a well-lit place and placing items in trunks.

"Be safe," Wallace said. "Be aware of your surroundings. [Thieves] are generally looking for an opportunity. If you minimize the opportunity, you minimize the risk."

Wallace also said students should note the serial numbers on their electronics.

"It helps us out dramatically," he said.

Kennedy said there are several steps students should take if something is stolen from a vehicle on campus.

He said the students should first contact the DPS and then the JPD.

The DPS is not mandated to send reports to the JPD; therefore the reports are left up to the individuals.

Lewis said anyone who needs to file a report should call or visit the JPD lobby. Someone there will make sure a person's case will be taken care of.

Kennedy said the DPS is also working on making the campus safer.

DPS officers patrol the residence hall side of campus during the midnight shifts. Also, DPS is planning to install cameras around campus.

The cameras will be placed in lots 43 (south side of campus, behind Leggett & Platt Athletic Center), 18 (south of Hughes Stadium), 19 (by the softball fields) and 25 (behind the residence halls) first.

The rest of the parking lots will receive cameras afterward.

Kennedy said the camera system will likely be installed by the end of the spring semester.

"Two-thirds of the day, there would be someone to watch them," Kennedy said.

He said there are several advantages of the camera system.

The first is to identify thieves and vandals.

The second is to keep track of the campus when DPS cannot.

"You can always go back and watch the recording," Kennedy said.

He said students can also take measures if they have information on campus crimes.

"If you have any information regarding the recent thefts, please contact the Department of Public Safety or JPD," Kennedy said.

The DPS phone number is 626-2222. The JPD phone number is 623-3131.

LETTERS:

From Page 4

Constitution prohibits what is obscene ..." Her statement is false. In fact, the Constitution says nothing about obscenity (unless if there is some recent amendment that I don't know about. However, the beauty of amendments is they can be repealed if they are found to be unconstitutional, and if there is such an amendment prohibiting obscenity, it should be repealed.)

The fact is that the federal government has no constitutional authority to censor anyone. Any kind of censorship by the federal government does indeed violate the First Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees the right of freedom of speech for all citizens. And while I am not a fan of pornography, I must recognize that pornographers, as citizens, have the same Constitutional rights as everyone else.

If the government were to start prohibiting obscenity, first of all, they would have to define what is obscene, which everyone has a different opinion about. Then they would have to gather a panel of panel of people to view the items that were considered to be pornographic. In essence, this amounts to adult citizens telling other adult citizens what they can or cannot view. This is unconstitutional nonsense.

Perhaps the widespread idea that the government has the right to censor speech comes from the common belief that the United States is a democracy. But we are not a democracy; we are a constitutional republic, and this means that we all have the rights to freedom of religion and speech, and others guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

Tyler Downing
Junior Mass Communications Major

Former smoker emphasizes role of second-hand smoke

I would like to respond to the recent article, "Smoker's talk about society's view" [Nov. 12 issue]. While it is an interesting and well-written article, it has one major flaw. Nowhere in the article does it mention the important, if not central, motivation for the Non-smoker's Movement — second-hand smoke. As a former smoker, I empathize with the annoyance of having to stand in the rain, the snow and the blistering heat just to smoke a little cigarette. However, it is one of many repercussions that accompany bad habits. There are many justifiable impositions posed by society, not to protect the user but to protect everyone else. Another example, besides smoking limits, is drinking. If you decide to go out and drink profusely, which is horrible for your liver, society expects you to protect others by others by getting a taxi or a designated driver. The truth is, I don't care what you do to your own body. If you sit down next to me to eat your Big Mac and fries my cholesterol doesn't go up. But when you enjoy that little cigarette next to me, I'm breathing that in too.

Vanessa Copeland
Senior International Studies Major and Former Smoker

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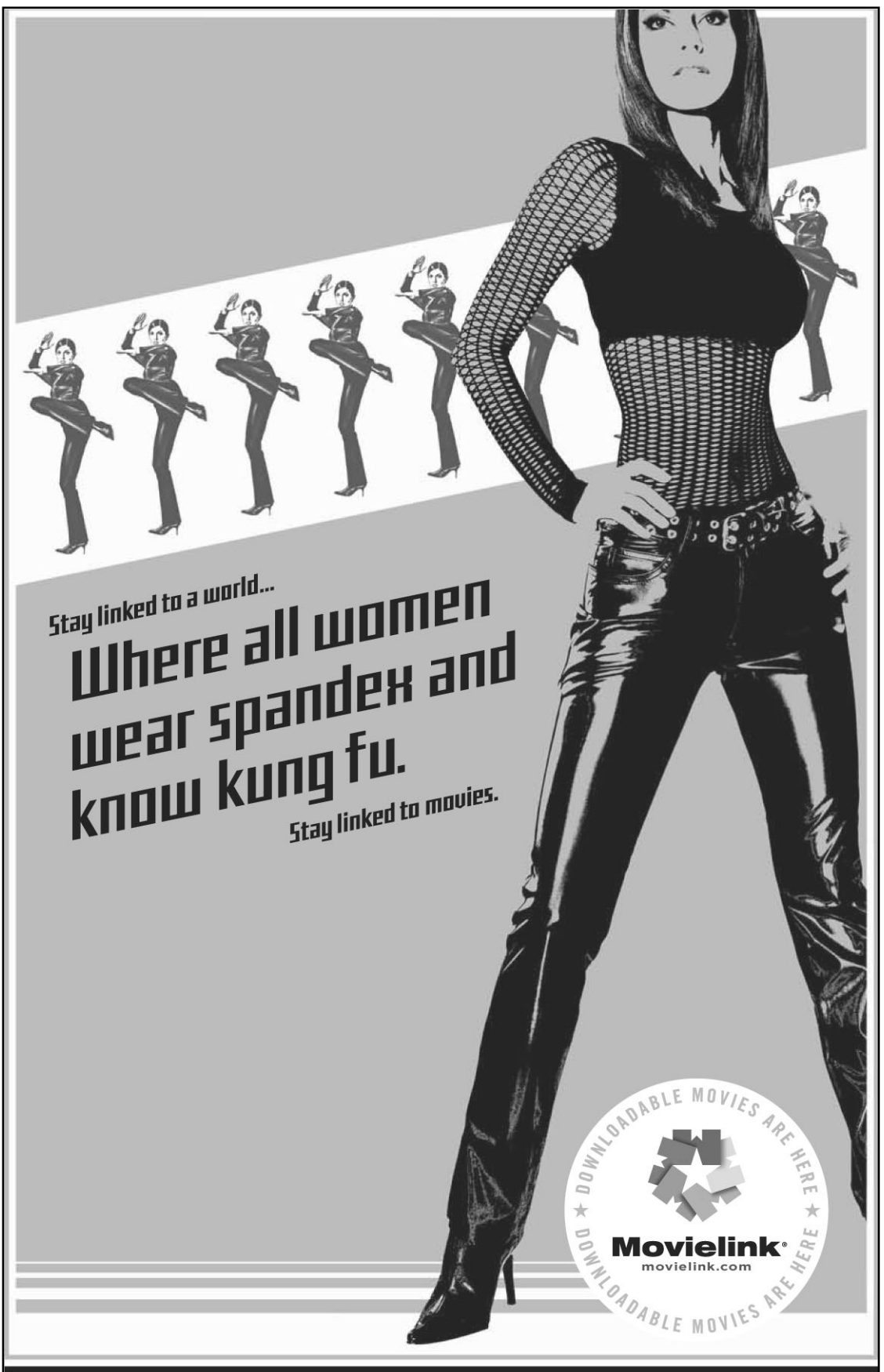
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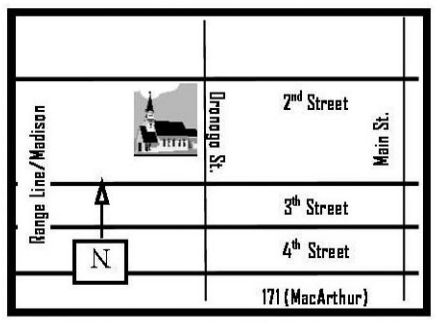

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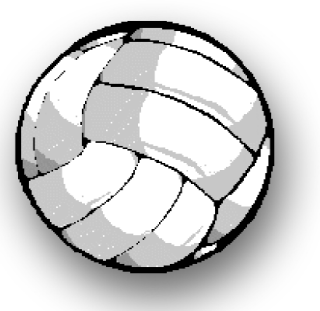

Intermural volleyball champions

Left, fans and members of the Internationals intermural volleyball team watch as a close game comes to an end during the semi-finals of the Nov. 17 competition. Top left, Duncan Chan, freshman pre-engineering major, slams a spike during the final game of the indoor intermural championship match at Young Gymnasium. Above, Danyel Farrell, sophomore business management, bumps a pass to her teammates. The Internationals won the championship game and free T-shirts.

Andy Tevis/The Chart

POEMS:

From Page 4

ceptions or how they sprawl, unwind, move and shift, each turn revealing some new angle on their subject.

Again, just minutes after the poet begins to recite a new prose poem, we all are listening, intently, straining to hear, through the husk of his Siberian accent, what he has glimpsed of the world's truths.

Those among *The Chart*'s readers who know me may be surprised I am using this opportunity to write about poetry rather than about issues many regard as more immediate and pressing: the war in Iraq, presidential politics, the future of our nation and it's increasingly uncertain place in the world.

For many, reading, writing and listening to poetry, if they are thought of at all, are thought of as apolitical or unproductive activities, activities in which English professors, English majors and others with nothing better or more important to do indulge. Poetry may be beautiful but, when weighed against the urgencies of work, business, health care, family responsibilities or religion, it may seem expendable.

I would suggest a different perspective.

I and many others I know who have been open to the possibilities of poetry and let poetry work on us have found, first of all, that, far from taking us away from the things and concerns of the world, poetry can take us to the heart of them. It can do this partly through the poet's choice of subject matter, which for many practicing poets can be very far reaching, ranging from the old standbys like love and death to the latest news: Yevtushenko, for example, read a devastating poem he had just composed about the slaughter at the Russian school in Beslan.

More important than subject matter, though, is the fact poetry's medium is the language we use everyday.

Of course, just because poetry uses words and material drawn from our common experience does not mean poetry is easily accessible or comprehensible, as anyone who has felt lost or uncomfortable reading or hearing poetry will affirm.

That is because poetry works also through challenging the assumptions, conceptions and beliefs we share through language by shaking up, rethinking, recreating that language, or, as Ezra Pound put it, always "making it new."

I am not speaking here only of poems that preach or press a message, whether those poems of social commitment are well or poorly crafted. We will always need, whether our culture admits it or not, the prophetic, dissenting voices that sound through poetry. I am speaking, rather, of all poems that call us to confront and contemplate unexpected connections, to rethink what we mean by what we say, mainly because they compel us to deepen the value of language itself.

Anyone who reads the daily news or anyone subjected to the daily onslaught of the media knows how quickly language can be debased or how soon we can become used to clichés and expressions that come to mean little or nothing: "awesome" is no longer awesome, "cool" is no longer cool. The best poetry fiercely resists those tendencies, refusing to let our words lie comfortably, again to use two expressions from Yevtushenko, at "room temperature ... sort of."

Major Jackson, one of the poets who read at the Frost Place this year, spoke of that place and its nourishing of poetry as a "sanctuary against the madness of election year and the harm and misuse of language in the cause of rhetorical one-upmanship." He added, "The pre-emptive war our country has undertaken in our name, I believe, has done a number on our interior lives, that part of us that feels and intuitively knows that something criminal and wicked is happening. Poets are in the business of life and creation, memory and celebration, tenderness and reconciliation."

I would add that they are also in the business of challenging, provoking and disturbing us to think, feel and imagine what we couldn't without them, sometimes critically, sometimes sympathetically.

Honestly worked poems enrich the texture of our experience, urge us to face realities we don't always face and, not infrequently, envision new worlds beyond them. That is how poems always matter.

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Sophomore guard Andrea Gossard looks for an open teammate.

Time for a new BALL GAME

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Junior guard Quentin Edwards drives down the court, capitalizing on a turnover during the Nov. 15 game against Central Bible College. The Lions won their first game of the season 90-76.

Basketball season kicks off with home games

By Noelle Ott
Staff Writer

This year's basketball season launched off with a win for the men and a loss for the women Nov. 15 at Young Gym.

In the women's first game, Missouri Southern lost to Northeastern Oklahoma State University in a battle that was close until the end.

The Lions started the game with Vonny Wilson, senior forward, scoring two-point with a lay-up. This trend would continue for the first half, but the team fell short of victory in the second half when NSU took control in the final 10 minutes of the game.

"We realized we made mistakes," said Danielle DeVader, freshman guard, "[But] there weren't things we can't improve on."

The Lady Reds went on to victory with a score of 50-46.

"We knew it'd be a tough basketball game," said Tyrone Jones, assistant coach for the Women's team, "We played well for the first 10 minutes. We still have a long ways to go if we want to go to the NCAA tournament."

> *"We still have a long ways to go if we want to go to the NCAA tournament."*
>
> **Tyrone Jones**
> Assistant Women Basketball Coach

The women will be competing next at the Central Oklahoma Classic in Edmond on Friday and Saturday.

The men's game against Central Bible College fired up around 7:30 p.m. with a lead by the Lions. Orestus Cavness, senior forward, laid up the ball with assistance from Jeremy McCadney, junior guard, to score the first two points in the game.

The first half would continue as the Lions went head-to-head with the Spartans, losing the lead only once when Central Bible College proceeded with one point with four minutes and 35 seconds left.

However, the Lions would take the lead back, closing the score at 43-40 for the first half.

The second half belonged to the Lions as they roared ahead, going in for the kill as the clock ticked away. Southern took the victory with a score of 90-76.

"We played hard at times," said Aundrey Wright, assistant coach for the men's team, "However, because we got off to a good start, we got a little too comfortable. But we picked up our defense."

The men's team will be competing next as Southern hosts the Freeman Sports Medicine/Chris Tucker Memorial Classic Friday and Saturday.

They will play first against Panhandle State University.

The game will start at 7 p.m.

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Senior guard Aubrie Hallman passes to a teammate during the second half of the Nov. 15 game against Northeastern State.

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Senior guard Hiram Ocasio, left, and junior forward/center Dan Jones wait for their opportunity to play again after a short break during the game against Central Bible College Nov. 15.